

RE-VISIONING MYTHMAKING: CONTENDING FEMALE VOICES IN DUFFY'S *THE WORLD'S WIFE* AND ATWOOD'S *THE PENELOPIAD*

*P Devipriya*¹, *Smrutisikta Mishra*² & *Liju Jacob Kuriakose*³

¹Research Scholar, Department of English, NIT Puducherry, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of English, NIT Puducherry, India

³Assistant Professor, Alliance University, Bangalore, India

Received: 15 Feb 2022

Accepted: 21 Feb 2022

Published: 23 Feb 2022

ABSTRACT

Mythologies have long perpetuated the idea of patriarchal world order as they “justify an existing social system and account for traditional rites and customs” (Graves 21). Revisionist Mythmaking, according to Ostriker, is an effective strategy to re-define female identity and to make “corrections” to constructed “images of what women have collectively and historically suffered” (73). *The World's Wife* is a collection of poetry by Carol Ann Duffy, narrated by prominent mythical and historical figures' wives, offering counter perspectives to the existing Western canon. Atwood's *The Penelopiad* is a novella written in the form of a mock-heroic that narrates the story of Penelope, better known as the wife of King Odysseus. An analysis of both these works showcase the shift in narrative and lay bare the inherent injustice afforded to women in mythological renderings. This paper attempts to study how Duffy and Atwood attempt to redefine narrative epistemology by subverting high culture handed down as normative through traditional mythology.

KEYWORDS: Revisionism, Myth, High Culture, Narrative Voice, Canon Formation